Foreign oil refineries in India

969. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that biggest global refining oil inudstries have set up business industry in India making indigenous oil mills sick;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to save Indian companies and oil industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) Some foreign collaborators have entered the vegetable oil sector through the FDI route. However, no adverse effects of their entry have been reported so far. One of the significant features of the economic and financial reforms in India since 1991 has been a conscious recgognition of the important role of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the accelerated economic growth of the country including vegetable oil sector.

Policy on import/export of foodgrains

970. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN:
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a new task force under the auspices of the Food Corporation of India to "formulate a policy for export and import of goodgrains";

(b) if so, what are its terms of reference and by when it is likely to submit its report; and

(c) whether Government have wound up the earlier High Level Committee set up under the Chairmanship of an official in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the similar terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) A Committee headed by the Chairman, Food Corporation of India has been set up to, *inter allia* formulate a clear and comprehensive policy framework for the export (and import) of foodgrains, over a period of time, as also to recommend Operational Guidelines pertaining thereto.

There is, separately, a High Level Committee constituted by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution which continues to function on a regular basis.

Pesticides in bottled water

971. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has ordered an inquiry after noticing the reports in the press about pesticide contaminated bottled water;

(b) if so, whether Government have received the report, and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Foodgrains storage in West Bengal

972. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains are being kept by F.C.I. in hired godown at Coochbehar in West Bengal;

(b) whether there is any proposal to construct a ten thousands M.T. capacity godown at Coochbehar; and